

Meets With Yaqub Khan, Junejo

BK081612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] The first round of talks between Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, was held in Islamabad today. The second round of talks will be held tomorrow. Mr Diego Cordovez called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi today and discussed issues related to his current visit to the region which he is undertaking to facilitate further progress toward a political solution of the Afghanistan problem.

To Leave for Kabul 10 Mar

BK091526 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Two rounds of formal talks between Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the UN secretary general's personal representative on the Afghanistan issue Diego Cordovez were held in Islamabad today. Cordovez will leave for Kabul tomorrow to hold talks with the other party of the issue.

Commentary Urges Response

BK091339 Karachi Domestic Service in English
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[A. Sayed Qamar commentary]

[Text] Mr Diego Cordovez, special envoy of the secretary general of the United Nations, arrived in Islamabad late Friday night to carry forward the talks toward the solution of the Afghanistan problem. Talking to newsmen, Mr Cordovez said that there has been a lot of progress in the efforts to find a political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. He was of the view that the process of negotiations launched earlier has moved forward and that they have gone a long way in their efforts to achieve a political solution of the problem. Mr Cordovez was happy over the progress made so far. He appreciated the political will, cooperation, flexibility, and tremendous determination that two interlocutors had shown throughout the process of discussion. Mr Cordovez described his current visit as important as the (first one) because all parties concerned have gone a long way in these efforts. While replying to a question, he was very categorical in saying that there is a willingness to achieve a settlement. He was hopeful that this problem would be solved and that he had come to assist his interlocutors in such an effort, he added.

The [word indistinct] statement of Mr Cordovez on his arrival here was no doubt very encouraging and based on optimism. [Words indistinct] that the Afghanistan people will feel very happy over what he said. It is now over 6 years that the Afghanistan issue has been lingering on and during this period several developments have taken place. The process of negotiations started by the special envoy of the UN secretary general under the auspices of the United Nations has already moved up to the sixth round at Geneva. During the (fifth) round of talks the problem and its solution have been thoroughly discussed and

certain modalities have also been decided by the two sides and [words indistinct]. Unfortunately, as the talks in the fifth round were progressing, another element was introduced by the Kabul representative in the indirect talks which gave a jolt to otherwise smooth and peaceful negotiations. This was obviously done with a purpose and later events proved that Pakistan's stand on the issue [words indistinct]. Kabul insisted that Pakistan must hold direct talks. But the Pakistani representative refused because Pakistan believed that if the first three instruments could be tackled through indirect talks, then there is no reason why the fourth instrument cannot be dealt in a similar manner. This shuttle of Mr Cordovez is undoubtedly very important. It is ever since the fifth round of talks that he remained busy trying to consolidate his efforts. In this connection, he also visited Moscow to hold talks with the Soviet leaders. Thereafter, at the congress meeting of the Soviet Communist Party the Russian leaders have also given impressions that they wanted a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan problem.

Pakistan sincerely believes that Afghanistan problem must be solved peacefully in accordance with the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and Organization of Islamic Conference resolutions. She wished the people of that country must exercise their right of self-determination to decide their fate. Pakistan desires that the Soviet forces withdraw from Afghanistan followed by the return of the Afghan refugees to their motherland with honor and dignity. Thereafter, the Afghan people must enjoy their right to decide their fate. This has all along been the stand taken by Pakistan on this issue despite the fact that Pakistan consistently was under pressure. The pressure tactics included frequent violations of the airspace by Afghan planes, gunship helicopters, and frequent bombing of its border villages. Pakistan has shown great restraint all along because it believes that the use of force has never yielded any result anywhere in the world. But it is high time that Kabul and Moscow must realize the gravity of the situation and sincerely respond to the efforts being made by Mr Cordovez toward the solution of the crisis. The amount of optimism demonstrated by the UN special envoy last night in Islamabad will be welcomed by Pakistan for it is keen that the 3 million Afghan refugees, who have taken shelter in Pakistan, should return to their homeland and (live in peace).

Troops on Alert After Clash With Opium Growers

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[Excerpts] Gandaf, Pakistan, March 9 (AFP) -- Pakistani troops were on full alert in this northwest mountain town on Sunday after clashes with opium growing villagers left 13 people dead and more than 60 injured on Saturday. Residents told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here that 140 people were still missing following the opium destruction operation in the Gadoon-Amirai region. Officials said 120 people were arrested on charge of violating the ban on poppy growing and attacking security forces, who were trying to carry out an eradication order. A Pakistan militia source said that 28 paramilitary troops and police were also injured in the clash. Authorities said the anti-poppy sweep on Saturday eliminated opium on more than 120 acres of land which, they said, was half the total opium cultivated area in the country. Soldiers manned special check points watching entry of people to the area where fields were devastated.